

Maryland Numismatist



Half Dime Find in Maryland



Summer, 2017 Volume 45 – No. 2

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

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Each member club of MSNA shall appoint a representative who will serve on the board and will exercise their club's vote on any matter arising.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Frank Murphy
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Club Mailing Address:

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President's Message

As a member of the American Numismatic Association, I recently received my 2017 ANA election ballot. What I find so impressive about each of the candidates is the experience with and obvious devotion, commitment, and dedication to the numismatic hobby these candidates bring to the table. I encourage each MSNA member qualified to vote in the ANA election to return a ballot. Visit money.org/election or read the June issue of *The Numismatist* to review candidates' biographies and election statements. I'm confident we will have another outstanding group of ANA officers and governors to lead and represent our hobby.



MSNA mailed out a 17-question survey to our member clubs in early March. The survey results will help guide the MSNA Board to better engage our member clubs in the Association's activities. The MSNA Board will evaluate and publish the member club survey results in a future issue of *The Maryland Numismatist*.

The MSNA website <http://mdstatenumisassn.org/> is currently down for extended maintenance that may take a few more weeks. As time permits, our volunteer webmaster Scott Barman is working to get the website back on line. Once the website is relaunched, we will begin posting photos of the John Henry collection of Maryland colonial currency and tokens. This virtual exhibit can be showcased nationally via our website for those researching this subject matter as well as the general dissemination of information to all interested numismatists within Maryland and beyond.

With the John Henry collection now mentioned, let me take a few lines here to tamp down (if not extinguish) any circulating rumor that the MSNA Board is considering selling or otherwise disposing of some or all of the John Henry collection. This is simply not true, and no motion or discussion to do so has been brought before the MSNA board.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Maryland Numismatist*. I also wish each reader a great summer. If, like me, you will take some time off this summer from work or normal retirement routines to travel, have a safe and enjoyable time. On my vacation, I plan on taking with me a couple of rolls of Eisenhower dollars to leave as tips at restaurants along the roads less traveled.

Julian M. Leidman

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What Have I Done?

I have handled, developed and sold many of the finest rare coin collections in the country including:

- Rare Colonial issues, including several 1792 issues
- Assemblage of specialized collections of all early U.S. coins by die variety
- Sale of the Wilkison Gold Pattern Collection in 1973
- Participation as a bourse dealer at hundreds of local, regional and national coin shows and conventions
- Attendance at every major U.S. auction held since 1968, representing as many as 25 bidders at the same time
- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

- Assist in the formation (or location) of any U.S. coin or currency collection
- Counsel collectors, dealers and corporations on any aspect of the numismatic business or hobby
- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



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Exhibit Results in Baltimore

The MSNA exhibit area at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo March 31 - April 2 held six exhibits by four exhibitors.



Best of Show (1/10 oz. gold eagle): *In the Beginning...When Man Created Coins* by Michael Shutterly. This exhibit won the Howlan Wood award for the best exhibit at the ANA show in Anaheim in 2016.



Master (1/10 oz. platinum eagle): *Engraved Coins of the Three Abrahamic Faiths* by Simcha Kuritzky. This is a brand new exhibit, but will also be at the ANA show in August.



Superior (1/25 oz. gold Fiji coin) *An Assortment of Relic Exonumia* by Carl Neeley.

The exhibits *Heavenly Gold* by Michael Shutterly and *Israel's Two-Decade Long Road to Standardized Gold Coinage* by Simcha Kuritzky were not eligible for an award since there is a limit of one award per exhibitor. An American silver eagle appreciation award was given to Bryce Doxzon (whose exhibit, as exhibits chairman, was ineligible for competition) for his exhibit *They Also Ran: Select 19th Century Political Medals of Defeated Presidential Candidates*.

ANNAPOLIS COIN and CURRENCY SHOW
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The Colonial Coin Club of Annapolis

WESTMINSTER COIN and CURRENCY SHOW

Westminster Fire Hall - John Street Quarters

28 John Street - Westminster, Maryland

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Phil W. Greenslet, 1932 - 2017



MSNA Life Member #15 Phil W. Greenslet passed away on April 1, 2017. He was born and raised in northwestern Pennsylvania, completed his BA at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon in 1954, and MA at Emory University in Atlanta in 1955. He was also a student at Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, West Germany while serving in the United States military as an administrative specialist. Mr. Greenslet worked in retail management for over forty years. He and his wife Myra had four children.

Phil Greenslet described himself as “an accumulator for 62 years, a collector for 28 years, and a numismatist for 16 years.” He was a member of the Canadian Numismatic Association (CAN), Token and Medal Society (TAMS), and American Numismatic Association (ANA). He served as President of the Kent Coin Club, Catonsville Coin Club, and Carroll County Coin Club. He served as Vice President of Maryland State Numismatic Association in 1978 and President 1979-1981. He helped secure Baltimore as the site of the 1985 ANA convention and served together with his son John as Exhibits Chair. He won over 300 exhibit awards, including 14 ANA first place awards, 18 CNA first place awards, and 2 CNA Best of Show awards. He helped to organize the 1990 exhibits by the Franklin Mint, the Franklin Institute, and the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, OH, to mark the bicentennial of Benjamin Franklin’s death. In addition, he served as the ANA Exhibits Chair for the Centennial Convention in Chicago in 1991.

Phil Greenslet authored the definitive reference *The Medals of Franklin* published by the Token and Medal Society in 1993. TAMS released fifteen updates for the book.

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Wanted: A scan of the sheet of Anti-Eatam Iron Works notes issued in the 1840s as shown on the souvenir card for the Ninth Fall Baltimore Coin and Currency Show in 1998. Please contact David Schenkman at Dave@TurtleHillBanjo.com.

Exhibit Results in Pittsburgh

For the last several years, PAN (Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists) officers and board members have been exhibiting at MSNA's competition in Baltimore and MSNA officers have been exhibiting at the Spring and Fall PAN shows in Pittsburgh. Two MSNA life members exhibited and won awards at the PAN Show May 11-13.



MSNA Treasurer and Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** (far left in photo) won first place in world coins and a 1/10 ounce gold eagle with his exhibit *Feline Species Numismatic Type Set* which was shown this past January in FUN and is an update to the one shown at the ANA in 2011. His exhibit *Medals of Puja (Hindu Worship)* won second place in exonumia and a MS64 Morgan Dollar. It was last shown at ANA in 2004. MSNA Secretary **Bryce Doxzon** (second from the left) won third place in exonumia and a proof silver eagle with his exhibit *Honoring Francis Asbury – Father of American Methodism*.

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Just Why Palladium?

by Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

There has been some buzz fairly recently in the numismatic press that the U.S. Mint may finally gear up for making some bullion coins out of palladium. The initial legislation to this effect goes all the way back to the year 2010. A few other nations have already done this. But it seems that palladium doesn't have the star appeal of gold or platinum. So, why try palladium now, and what do we do with it when we're not turning it into bullion coins?

A quick primer on element 46 might be in order here. First, the name. Palladium was discovered as a new element in 1803, at about the same time that the asteroid Pallas was named – and so the name of the element was taken from the asteroid. Interestingly, the asteroid is the now known to be the second largest in the asteroid belt, after Ceres, and was named because of Pallas' relation to Athena. Athena was both the foster sister of Pallas and the one who slew her (alas, these things happened more than once in the families of Greek gods and goddesses, you know).



Second, its uses. Palladium is one of the platinum group metals (PGM) because of its position on the periodic table of the elements near platinum, along with rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, and osmium. All together this sextet is rather rare, and platinum and palladium often find use as some form of automobile catalyst. According to the Mineral Commodity Summaries by the U.S. Geological Survey, "the leading demand for the PGMs continued to be catalytic converters to decrease harmful emissions from automobiles.... Platinum, palladium, and rhodium are used as investments in the form of exchange-traded products, as well as physical bars and coins." So it looks like we collectors have made it onto the USGS list, as well.

Third, where we get it. The USGS says that palladium and the other PGMs “were produced by one domestic mining company from its Stillwater and East Boulder Mines in south-central Montana.” We also recover some palladium from what are called anode muds or slimes when copper is purified via electrolysis. And we do get quite a bit of it from Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Norway.

With all that under our belts, it’s also worth looking at our own production of palladium coins – oh wait, there hasn’t been any yet. But there certainly have been more than a few palladium pieces produced throughout the world. We have palladium bullion coins that have been produced by China and Canada – two nations that have been big players in the bullion coinage arena for all sorts of precious metals: gold, silver, platinum, and palladium. Australia is in there as well, with their emu coins that weigh in at 1 ounce. Russia has a presence in the field also with their ballerina coins. But there are other nations beyond these who have at least produced some palladium coin, routinely a commemorative. For example, Namibia, Palau, the Cook Islands, and the Isle of Man have also seen at least one palladium coin issued, as a commemorative or a bullion coin. Israel issued a one ounce palladium medal in 1988 to commemorate their successful launch of the Ofefeq satellite. The next year, the Hutt River Province which is officially part of Australia issued a \$100 palladium coin commemorating cold fusion, which purportedly used palladium to force hydrogen atoms together to make helium. I call it a fantasy commemorating a fantasy.



How do we collect?

Since we are collectors, the obvious questions when confronting something new like this are: how do we collect these coins, and where do we start? One easy way might be to look to the Canadian palladium Maple Leaves, as they are issued by our next-door neighbor. They were issued for three years starting in 2005, then again in 2009 and 2015. These coins are definitely out on the secondary market and priced closed to melt. A quick check with eBay shows that some of the ¼ ounce pieces are

available for about \$450. Curiously, in March 2017, one seller had a group of 20 of these Maple Leaves for \$15,887 – or about \$794 per coin, very close to the New York commodity price. That's quite a listing, but could also be quite the easy way to build a collection in one fell swoop.



Another route a person might easily take is to collect the Russian ballerina pieces, as there were several of them in a short but very attractive palladium series. Like the Maple Leaves, there are some fractional pieces of ½ ounce. They too are priced close to the cost of the metal, unless slabbed by some third party grading service in a very high grade.

As mentioned, there are several other nations and territories that have issued palladium coins. While they are not the most common items on any bourse floor, any of us who prefer to see our coins first hand before buying – as opposed to seeing photos on eBay or other web sources – will probably find that some patience, as well as some visits to MSNA or PAN or VNA shows, will eventually land some impressive pieces. This could very well become a fun direction to take in our hobby.

The United States Mint has not waded into the fray quite yet when it comes to producing palladium bullion coins or commemoratives. But if Congress waves the green flag, as it seems to be doing, the Mint may very well be there shortly. Having a couple of palladium pieces already on hand when the first U.S. issues come out might be a great way to expand our collections.

Maryland in the News

The April, 2017 edition of ANA's *The Numismatist* includes a column by Michael Atkins on Frank Duffield of the Baltimore Coin Club and an article on store cards which he authored in the March, 1907 edition of *The Numismatist*. BCC has a bound copy with a preface by Duffield that describes what the club was like over a century ago. The article goes on to describe some counter-stamped coins in Duffield's collection as well as prices paid by advertisers in the 1907 periodical.

OCEAN CITY COIN and CURRENCY SHOW
Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland

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Sat - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sun - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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2017

November 4-5

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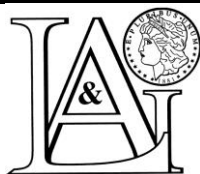
Local News

At the May meeting of the **Washington Numismatic Society**, President **Simcha Kuritzky** spoke on the Arab-Israel war of 1967. He gave a talk on coins and tokens for *pidyon haben* (redemption of the first-born son) at the April meeting. Local dealer **Julian Leidman** gave a review of the numismatic market at the March meeting. June 20 will be the semi-annual pot-luck dinner.

At the **Montgomery County Coin Club** April meeting, members watched a DVD from the ANA library where David Vagi described coins of the early Caesars, from the late Republic to early Empire of Rome. On June 13, **Julian Leidman** will make his annual appearance to present his “State of the Hobby” address.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, MR, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (some-times), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County	Bowie	Middle River (MR)	MSNA Board



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Maryland Farm Field Yields 1795 Flowing Hair Half Dime

by Jack Schadegg

After some two hundred years in a Maryland farm field, a scarce 1795 Flowing Hair half dime (struck only in 1794 and 1795) is now in the hands of a Maryland metal detectorist and coin collector. The early U.S. silver half dime was unearthed in early April, 2017 while three metal detectorists were searching a farm dating back to the Maryland colonial period. The searchers were on private property with permission. The find and recovery was captured on video as it happened. Multiple plowings of this field over time positioned the coin in a nearly vertical, on-edge orientation in the field at a depth of about 6 inches. This resulted in a very minor rim ding and obverse scrape during recovery. Nonetheless, the half dime should easily grade XF40. The recovery video was recently posted to YouTube at the following link www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui2h_FrqeT8. It takes the reader to a fascinating 3-minute 40-second video documenting the find. If you can access this link or share the link with someone who can access it, you can view the numismatic recovery. As the video infers, the finder will not likely seek to sell the 1795 half dime anytime soon.

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More information at: **vnaonline.org *and***
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Bourse Chairman: **Gregg Coburn**
 540-272-1524
 coburngregg@gmail.com

Contact for exhibits: **John Cunningham**
 703-303-0783
 cunningham314@verizon.net

What's Your Sign?

Part Thirty-Six: Large Medals in Greek

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

In the mid-1970s, an unusual series of zodiac medals were produced. Despite being very large, they were intended to be worn as pendants, and despite having only Greek inscriptions, I'm reasonably sure they were produced in the U.S. Most of the medals I've seen are 55mm in diameter and cast, very thin so as to keep the weight down. I have one medal that





is 35mm and thick. All are high relief. The obverse of each medal shows a very large zodiac sign surrounded by a broken circle of dots (or maybe they represent planets) and dozens of small five-pointed stars of different sizes. The tops all have elaborate loops. They come in plated in zinc, copper, nickel, and iron.



The only 35mm medal I have is a Leo. Once can see that the sign takes up more space on the obverse with no room for the circle of dots or planets and the stars are closer to the sign. The loop is also much flatter than with the 55mm medals.

The common reverse has four concentric rings. The outer ring has cartoonish images of the zodiac signs often with stars. Most look like the sign with exaggerated features, such as a ridiculously large head, but the twins show two cyclops, one upside down in relief and the other upright but incuse; and the virgin is a stick figure superimposed on



what I think is very large hair (or maybe it's a tree in the background). Inside of this circle is a band with the zodiac names in Greek. The next band shows the sigil for the signs, though the Gemini sigil looks like a cloverleaf. The last band is small with the numerals 1 to 12 showing in which months the signs rule.

Most medals have what looks like an oblong Greek coin with a recumbent deer facing right, N to the left, Δ to the right, and 1947 below. I think this may be the minter's logo. However, one medal has a smiling radiant sun face and another has just 12 "pie wedges" in the center with no lettering at all--the second band on the reverse is empty. The medals with a coin in the center show the signs either filling up the whole square or small enough that there's room around each sign.



Zodiac Sign		Greek name	Transliteration
♈	Aries	ΚΡΙΟΣ	Krios
♉	Taurus	ΤΑΥΡΟΣ	Tavros
♊	Gemini	ΔΙΔΥΜΟΙ	Didumoi
♋	Cancer	ΚΑΡΚΙΝΟΣ	Karkinos
♌	Leo	ΛΕΩΝ	Leon
♍	Virgo	ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ	Parthenos
♎	Libra	ΖΥΓΟΣ	Zugos
♏	Scorpio	ΣΚΟΡΠΙΟΣ	Skorpios
♐	Sagittarius	ΤΟΞΟΤΗΣ	Toxotis
♑	Capricorn	ΑΙΓΟΚΕΡΟΣ	Aigokeros
♒	Aquarius	ΥΔΡΟΧΟΟΣ	Udropkhoos
♓	Pisces	ΙΧΘΕΙΣ	Ikhtheis



**Maryland State Numismatic
Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504**

Dedicated to attaining knowledge and fulfillment in Numismatics

Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____ MSNA #: _____ (for renewal)

I hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc., subject to its constitution & by-laws. (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Tax-deductible donation to MSNA \$ _____

If ANA member, please give us the ANA Number _____

The items below are only requested for original membership application:

Numismatic specialties: _____

Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

Sponsor No. 2: _____

For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of \$15 (club), \$10 (individual) or \$2 (under 18) must accompany this form for calendar year dues (\$5 individual after August 1). Life member upgrades are: \$300 for clubs, \$200 (age 50 & under), \$125 (51-65), \$75 (66 & over). You must be a regular member for 3 years before attaining life membership. Pay by check or money order.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

17 June – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

18 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

22-25 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

13 Aug. – Catonsville Coin Club Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1010 Frederick Road (1 mile from I-695), Catonsville, MD; 10-4.

27 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

3 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

9-10 Sept. – Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

29 Sept – 1 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasures Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4.

7 Oct. – Battlefield Coin Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-3:30.

8 Oct. – Middle River Coin Club Show, Victory Villa Community Center, Martin Blvd & Compass Road, Baltimore, MD; 10-3.

15 Oct. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

22 Oct. – Westminster Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

4-5 Nov. – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

9 - 12 Nov. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will hold its annual meeting on Saturday.*

MEMBER CLUBS IN GOOD STANDING (* denotes charter)

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